

# COVID-19 Evaluation

## What is the context?

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, which prompted a large and immediate response from USAID. On March 13, 2020, the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance<sup>1</sup> (BHA) activated a Response Management Team to assist in programming and enhance coordination efforts in response to the pandemic. During more than seven months of the COVID-19 Response Management Team operation (March 13- October 31, 2020), BHA programmed \$558 million of COVID-19 International Disaster Assistance (IDA) supplemental funding covering 178 awards across 41 countries.

## What is the COVID-19 Evaluation Associate Award?

The COVID-19 Evaluation Associate Award (or COVID-19 Evaluation) gathers timely evidence on BHA's response to COVID-19 in humanitarian contexts. The evaluation will determine the effectiveness, relevance, timeliness, and coherence of BHA's programming as implemented within the United States Government COVID-19 response. The evaluation will highlight key findings, lessons learned, high-level conclusions, and priority recommendations for future programming.

The COVID-19 Evaluation evaluates BHA-funded COVID-19 response awards across all regions issued from March to August 2020<sup>2</sup>, with data on final results excluded for any award that continued after November 2021. Funded by USAID/BHA, the COVID-19 Evaluation is issued through the IDEAL Leader with Associate Awards Activity and implemented by TANGO International in collaboration with Save the Children.

## Why conduct a COVID-19 evaluation?

As the global nature of the pandemic and response were unprecedented, there is an important opportunity to learn from these extraordinary events. The COVID-19 Evaluation serves a dual purpose for learning and accountability in accordance with BHA's commitment to monitor, evaluate, and glean meaningful lessons from the COVID-19 response to:



Improve USAID/BHA and partner learning around the performance of the awards, including successes, shortcomings, or unintended consequences;



Inform current and future funding and program strategies to address pandemic-related needs; and



Inform future research or evaluations to support the improved capacity of humanitarian actors to provide quality programming, particularly in the context of a global emergency.

<sup>1</sup> At that time legacy Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance with legacy Office of Food for Peace.

<sup>2</sup> Award funding for the Shelter and Settlements, Risk Management Policy and Practice (RMPP), and Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications (HPSAA) sectors are excluded from the evaluation. The results related to logistics support are included only as it relates to delivery of food assistance.

## How are we approaching the evaluation?

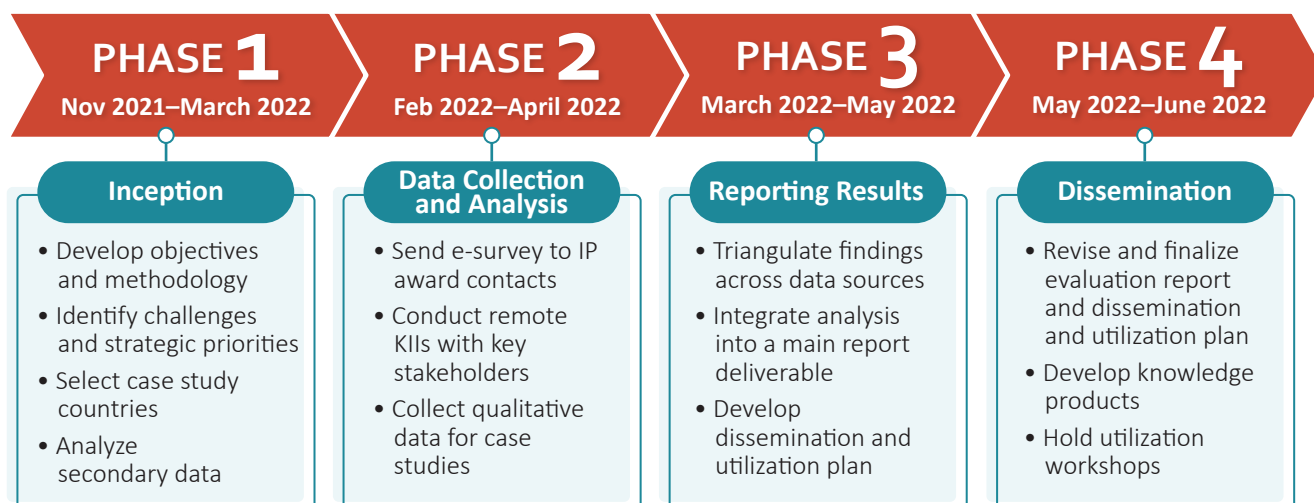
The COVID-19 Evaluation is a mixed-methods evaluation including a multi-level data collection approach. At the **field level**, the evaluation team will collect qualitative data through one case study country for each BHA region: Office of Africa (OA); Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean (ALAC); and Middle East, North Africa and Europe (MENA). At the **award level**, the evaluation will conduct an in-depth assessment of the data, documents, and partner perspectives for a sample of the total awards. For **global level** funding results, the evaluation will utilize the award indicator data and a semi-structured e-survey with the implementing partners (IPs). These methods will evaluate how new health, WASH, protection, food security, and livelihoods programming enabled the continuation of services and addressed critical needs or secondary impacts exacerbated by the pandemic.

## Evaluation Objectives

The COVID-19 Evaluation aims to improve USAID/BHA and partner learning around the performance of the awards to inform future funding strategies to address pandemic-related needs.

**Objectives:** The specific objectives of this performance evaluation are:

1. To evaluate the performance of activities funded through BHA's FY2020 IDA COVID-19 supplemental assistance and if/how the objectives were achieved; and
2. To document successes, lessons learned, shortcomings, and unintended consequences based on BHA's response through the COVID-19 supplemental assistance.



This timing may shift as agreed between BHA and the evaluation team.



Photo Credit: Save the Children in Uganda

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